Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 254092

15

ORIGIN AF-06

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

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O R 242326Z OCT 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS AMEMBASSY MADRID AMEMBASSY RABAT USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, MR, SS, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: CALL BY MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR

- 1. MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR OULD ABDALLAH AT HIS REQUEST CALLED ON DEP ASST SECY MULCAHY (AF) OCTOBER 23 TO REVIEW SITUATION IN SPANISH SAHARA.
- 2. OULD ABDALLAH PREFACED HIS REMARKS WITH OBSERVATION THAT US POSITION WITH RESPECT SPANISH SAHARA IS DIFFICULT, IN THAT US IS CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS, MOROCCO AND SPAIN. HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD SHARE HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE WITH US. HE SQID GIRM BELIEVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 254092

SITUATION IN SPANISH SAHARA IS VERY DANGEROUS AND COULDBE

BECOME "CATASTROPHIC." GIRM IS CONVINCED HASSAN WILL CARRY OUT THREAT TO MARCH ON EL AAIUM, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE FOR DOMESTIC REASONS, HE CANNOT NOW WITHDRAW. GIRM DOES NOT INTEND ORGANIZE MARCH ON SAHARA. LOGISTICS OF MARCH INVOLVING EVEN A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE WOULD BE BEYOND ITS CAPABILITIES. HOWEVER, AFTER CURRENT CAMPAIGN OF "EXPLANATION" GIRM EXPECTS MAURITANIANS TO MARCH AS INDIVIDUALS AND WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SIGNIFICANT NUMBER DO SO. OULD ABDALLAH SAID HE EXPECTED MAURITANIAN MARCHERS TO BE WELL RECEIVED BY INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN SAHARA BECAUSE OF MANY TRIBAL AND FAMILY TIES AMONG PEOPLES OF BOTH SIDES OF FRONTIERS.

- 3. MULCAHY SAID WHILE US DOES FOLLOW SAHARAN DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY, WE WISH TO MAINTAIN OUR NEUTRALITY. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PROBLEM BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY.
- 4. OULD ABDALLAH SAID HE RECOGNIZED USG DESIRE REMAIN NEUTRAL AND ONLY WISHED INVITE OUR ATTENTION TO PRESENT SITUATION, WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT VIEWS AS VERY GRAVE, AND TO NOTE THAT MAURITANIAN MARCH IS VERY PROBABLE, PARTICULARLY IF MOROCCANS DO SO. KISSINGER

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TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, MR, SS, SP, (ABDALLAH, OULD)

To: NOUAKCHOTT

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